

## Dungeness Watershed Action Plan Conference Call Notes, April 18, 2011

### Participants:

- Dean Yoshina, Hood Canal District Ranger
- Susan Piper, Olympic National Forest
- Rebecca Wolfe, Sierra Club Washington State Chapter
- Kathleen Dowd-Gailey, National Forest Foundation NW Regional Director
- Scott Chitwood, Jamestown-S'Klallam Tribe fish biologist
- John Woolley, Olympic Forest Coalition
- Mike Anderson, The Wilderness Society
- Paul Haines, City of Sequim
- Scott Haggerty, Olympic National Forest
- Matt McCombs, Olympic National Forest
- Bob Metzger, Olympic National Forest

### **Watershed Action Plan Background**

Dean explained that the Dungeness will be the third watershed action plan in the Olympic National Forest, after the Skokomish and Calawah. The questions are what do we want to restore, how do we determine the action plan, and how do we implement the plan. The Forest Service planning team has met three times and developed some draft goals and objectives and has produced a preliminary map of the planning area. Integrating climate change into the action plan will be added to the goals.

Bob said the action plan will help identify high priority projects for fish recovery and regional funding. The initial focus will be on national forest land in the upper watershed, but we can look for good opportunities elsewhere through the collaborative process. The lower Dungeness already has considerable planning and collaboration in place.

Susan said that the Forest Service intends to complete the action plan by the end of September and to work collaboratively with the Dungeness River Management Team and others.

### **Goals and Objectives of Action Plan**

Susan distributed the following draft goals and objectives prior to the meeting:

#### Goals:

- 1) Restore natural watershed processes within the Dungeness watershed.
- 2) Involve community in the stewardship of their public lands.
- 3) Create sustainable infrastructure within the watershed.
- 4) Develop a framework that fosters future collaboration.

#### Objectives:

- 1) Enhance and protect water quality and quantity.

- 2) Enhance riparian, aquatic, and terrestrial ecosystems to mutually benefit fish, wildlife, and humans.
- 3) Engage the broadest spectrum of the community.
- 4) Identify and prioritize high priority projects needed for restoration and protection within the watershed.
- 5) Identify leaders in the community that will make this effort and future efforts successful.
- 6) Utilize an integrated approach within the Forest Service and community to promote and facilitate implementation of the Action Plan.

Paul and Scott asked about the relationship between the broad, “all lands” approach of the goals and objectives and the scope of the plan, pointing out that migratory fish use the entire watershed and that potential funding sources (e.g. Whole Watershed Joint Venture) should be considered.

Mike and Rebecca encouraged inclusion of climate change into the planning, and asked about existing information. Susan said that the Olympic NF has done multi-resource assessments of climate change impacts at different scales and is working with UW Climate Impacts Group. Dean said they would look at what is available and incorporate as much as possible. Paul suggested looking at relevant data and ideas from Canadian governments and universities, too.

### **Next Steps**

People should send comments about the draft goals and objectives to Susan in the next couple of weeks. Dean will be meeting on April 29 with the National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin and Congressman Dicks’ aide Judith Morris and will brief them on the Dungeness action plan. Susan said the FS planning team will be meeting again May 6, and that they would like to hold a public meeting in June.

Dean said off-highway vehicle use appears to be a significant issue in the watershed, so we’ll need to engage some of the OHV user community. John volunteered to talk with a local OHV representative about participating early in the process and possibly joining our next call.

Susan thought that the DRMT would be able to participate in a field trip in mid-July. Paul suggested setting up a temporary field office where people can drop by and learn about the project. Kathleen said that the National Forest Foundation will be holding a forum in Olympia on May 24 to share information about multi-party monitoring and other “best practices” of collaborations in western Washington.

**Next meeting: Monday, May 9, 11:00 AM.**